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V.O

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/645,073	05/13/96	YOSHIOKA	M 1046.1133/JD

LM01/0223

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EXAMINER

GREGORY, B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2766	15

DATE MAILED: 02/23/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/645,073

Applicant(s)

Makoto Yoshioka et al.

Examiner

Bernarr Earl Gregory

Group Art Unit

2766



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 Dec 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three (3) month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 9-15 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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1. Claims 1-8 are allowable over the prior art of record.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by William (U.S. Patent 4,470,890).

Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Grantz et al (U.S. Patent 5,564,038).


William (U.S. Patent 4,470,890) shows software residing on a computer readable medium with a usage count that is kept on the computer readable medium itself. The usage count is a crude way of measuring a "period" as claimed in claims 9-15. Please note that William (U.S. Patent 4,470,890) refers to a "trial period" of usage, thereby plainly indicating that the count measures a "period." Please note the Abstract of William (U.S. Patent 4,470,890).

Grantz et al (U.S. Patent 5,564,038) is similar to William (U.S. Patent 4,470,890) in that a "trial period" is measured; however, Grantz et al (U.S. Patent 5,564,038) uses a "date stamp" (e.g., item 460 in Figure 4) and a test as to the number of days that have passed (e.g., item 470 in

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Figure 4). Grantz et al (U.S. Patent 5,564,038) plainly has a timer (e.g., items 430, 435, and 440 in Figure 4).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernarr Gregory whose telephone number is (703) 306-4153.



Bernarr E. Gregory
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2766

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February 20, 1999